

recognized and graciously thanked for their service. Our Nation has experienced many wars in a short history, but we have remained safe at home and abroad because of the valiant effort of the members of our armed services. The freedoms and liberty we espouse as a democracy have and will continue to be under threat. However, our veterans and active duty men and women are a testament to the preservation of justice and our form of government.

The families of those who serve our country on the front lines also deserve the admiration and appreciation of each and every citizen. These family members often watch their loved ones travel to faraway lands in support of a cause and an ideal so much greater than any one individual. The support given to our service men and women by their loved ones is irreplaceable, as it is the foundation for the bravery inherent in those who labor steadfastly in the defense of liberty.

Let us also make certain that we remember those individuals who are in harm's way today in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom are successful because of the members of our armed services who are day in and day out giving their best to keep America safe at home and abroad. They have also sacrificed to secure liberty and democracy for other nations and peoples who desire to be freed from political oppression. Furthermore, let us not forget those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and let us say a gracious thank you to them for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for liberty.

I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our Nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Recognizing Veterans Day in 2009 is just one small reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD HAGGERTY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero, an exemplary human being, find yet another wonderful example of the "Greatest Generation" and the story of our Nation. The life of Leonard Haggerty is filled with heroic moments, major milestones, compelling stories and noteworthy achievements. Leonard Haggerty was a friend and colleague in public service and I am honored to pay tribute to him on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Leonard Haggerty was born June 23, 1920, in Quebec, Canada. As a young man with two children and another on the way, Leonard Haggerty was called into the service of his country during World War II. Throughout his

life, Leonard was modestly quiet about his military accomplishments during World War II. When presented with a resolution of accomplishment upon his retirement in December 2008 at the age of 88, Leonard's co-workers on the county board were in awe to learn of his distinguished military career. Leonard Haggerty earned two Battle Stars in the European Theater as an Army infantryman; participated in intense fighting during the Battle of the Bulge; served with a detachment that liberated Dachau; and spent time as a personal bodyguard for General George S. Patton.

Leonard Haggerty began his long and successful career in public service in 1958, when he was appointed village commissioner of Roseville. Once Roseville became a city later that same year, he became a councilman. He served in that capacity until 1975, when he was elected mayor, a position he held until his retirement in 1981. In 1998, Mr. Haggerty came out of retirement in Florida and returned to Michigan to represent District 21 on the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, where he served until last year.

Leonard Haggerty was the heart and soul of the city of Roseville. He served his community with such active devotion and became a mentor to numerous individuals who followed in his footsteps. So many have come forward to highlight the impact Leonard had on their lives over the years, remembering his service, his graciousness to everyone around him and crediting him with getting them involved in public service or civic activity.

Leonard Haggerty was joyful, and anyone that has ever met him would comment about his smile, his dapper dress, and his truly kind and caring nature. He could tell a story and truly enjoyed the playful moments that made up his persona. For example, in 2003, he famously came to the assistance of an elderly constituent who called him saying that she was snowed in. Leonard, who described himself at the time as "83½ years old," arrived alone with a snow shovel in hand and cleared the 82-year-old woman's sidewalk and driveway, including a 2-foot snow drift, in about an hour. In 2004, Leonard made national news when he faced a Republican challenger in the fall election who was 92 years old. Leonard, jokingly ran on the slogan, "Vote for the kid."

These stories and so many other warm and inspirational memories were captured by family members, friends and the Homily of Father Michael Donovan.

Leonard Haggerty was the beloved husband of Jan, whom each and every one of us also calls a dear friend. Leonard and Jan were true partners in every sense of the word through their family, their community and their careers in public service. Leonard was the loving father of Patricia (Joseph) Boris, Shirlee (Robert) Kipp, James (Kathy) Haggerty, Kelly (Roger) Gaines and the late Michael Haggerty and grandfather of eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The awards have been numerous over the course of Leonard's career and in recent years his colleagues have joined together to enshrine his name on major achievements like the Leonard Haggerty Beautification Awards.

It will be his personal charisma and the way in which he took time to make those around him feel good that will be remembered by most. He will serve in the personal Hall of Fame of so many of us. For this institution of Congress, it is important to recognize the

achievements of a true American hero that fought for his country, served his community and made Roseville, Macomb County, the State of Michigan and the world a better place.

I am honored to have walked with Leonard during part of his incredible journey, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the truly remarkable life of Leonard Haggerty.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3548, the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009. There are currently millions of workers who are looking for a job, but through no fault of their own are unable to find employment. This bill would extend emergency unemployment for an additional 20 weeks in high unemployment States like Massachusetts. In Massachusetts alone, the National Employment Law Center estimates that 39,530 workers would be exhausting their benefits if not for the additional assistance created by this bill. I cosponsored this extension, and have been a strong supporter of extended unemployment compensation during economic recessions so that those most directly affected by these difficult times are not left to fend for themselves.

I also support extending the temporary homebuyer tax credit, which will help more Americans purchase homes. Congress first passed this provision in July 2008 by creating a refundable tax credit for first-time homebuyers. The credit served as an interest-free loan. In February, Congress extended the duration of the credit and also waived the repayment requirement. I supported the homebuyer tax credit on both occasions.

H.R. 3548 includes a provision to extend the homebuyer tax credit for 5 additional months and to raise the income cap so more families are eligible. In addition, the measure would provide a \$6,500 tax credit for current homeowners buying a new residence who consecutively live in their home for 5 years. I am a proud supporter of this reasonable extension of the homebuyer tax credit.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill quickly and clear it for the President.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOSEPH WAPNER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Judge Joseph Wapner on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Judge Wapner is being honored by his many colleagues, family, and friends in celebration of his outstanding accomplishments, both in his distinguished legal and television career and his tireless dedication to public service.